

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of establishing secure communications in a multi-mode portable communication device, comprising the steps of:

establishing a symmetric traffic key between the multi-mode portable communication device and a second multi-mode portable communication device in a first mode of communication in a first communication network that supports a first communication protocol;

switching to at least a second mode of communication in a different communication network that supports a different communication protocol; and

following the switch, sharing the symmetric traffic key between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second multi-mode portable communication device;

wherein the multi-mode device and the second multi-mode device communicate with one another using the first communication protocol over the first communication network and using the different communication protocol over the different communication network.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the symmetric traffic key is achieved using Automatic Public Key exchange techniques by having the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device each independently computing the symmetric traffic key using their respective private keys along with a public key of a peer unit before commencing secure communications in a first mode.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the Automatic Public Key exchange is implemented using public-key algorithms such as Diffie-Hellman cryptography or Elliptic Curve Cryptography.
4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the Automatic Public Key exchange is implemented by combining public-key algorithms with a signaling scheme such as Future Narrow Band Digital Terminal protocol.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of switching to the second mode from the first mode comprises switching among modes comprising interconnect voice, dispatch voice, peer-to peer data, and peer-to-peer voice.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of switching to the second mode from the first mode comprises switching among communication protocols comprising CDMA, TDMA, GSM, and WLAN.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of storing the symmetric traffic key in a phonebook record associated with the second portable communication device or storing the symmetric traffic key in a recent call list that reflects recent communications between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of establishing a new communication session between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device without requiring an APK key establishment process.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of establishing a key exchange with a plurality of other predetermined portable communication devices during an idle mode.

11. (currently amended) A method of establishing secure communications among a plurality of multi-mode portable communication devices, comprising the steps of:

storing information associated with a predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices;

establishing a symmetric traffic key using an APK key establishment process between a first multi-mode portable communication device and the predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices during an idle mode of the first multi-mode portable communication device;

establishing a secure communication session in a first mode of communication in a first communication network that supports a first communication protocol between the first multi-mode portable communication and at least one among the predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices without further requiring the APK key establishment process;

switching to at least a second mode of communication in a second communication network that is different from the first communication network and that supports a second communication protocol that is different from the first communication protocol; and

following the switch, sharing the symmetric traffic key between the first multi-mode portable communication device and the at least one among the predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices in the second type of communication;

wherein the first multi-mode device and the other multi-mode device communicate with one another using the first communication protocol over the first

communication network and using the second communication protocol over the second communication network.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of establishing a symmetric traffic key using the APK key establishment process comprises contacting the predetermined number of other portable communication devices to determine if their respective keys have expired and performing a background APK exchange to re-establish a fresh key if the respective key has expired.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A portable communication device capable of operating in multiple modes, comprising:

a transceiver;

a processor coupled to the transceiver, wherein the processor is programmed

to:

establish a symmetric traffic key in a first mode of communication in a first communication network that supports a first communication protocol between the multi-mode portable communication device and a second multi-mode portable communication device;

switch to at least a second mode of communication in a different communication network that supports a different communication protocol;

following the switch, share the symmetric traffic key between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second multi-mode portable communication device;

wherein the multi-mode device and the second multi-mode device communicate with one another using the first communication protocol over the first communication network and using the different communication protocol over the different communication network.

15. (original) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is programmed to establish the symmetric traffic key using Automatic Public Key exchange techniques.

16. (original) The portable communication device of claim 15, wherein the Automatic Public Key exchange is implemented using a signaling scheme such as Future Narrow Band Digital Terminal protocol combined with public-key algorithms such as Diffie-Hellman cryptography or Elliptic Curve Cryptography.
17. (previously presented) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is programmed to switch to the second mode from the first mode by switching among modes comprising interconnect voice, dispatch voice, peer-to peer data, peer-to-peer voice, or by switching among communication protocols comprising CDMA, TDMA, GSM, and WLAN.
18. (original) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is further programmed to store the symmetric traffic key in at least one among a phonebook record associated with the second portable communication device and a cache memory associated with a predetermined number of other portable communication devices in recent secure communication with the portable communication device.
19. (original) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is further programmed to establish a new communication session between the portable communication device and the second portable communication device without requiring an APK key establishment process.

20. (previously presented) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is further programmed to establish a key exchange with a plurality of other predetermined portable communication devices during an idle mode.

21. (currently amended) A portable communication device capable of operating in multiple modes, comprising:

a transceiver;

a processor coupled to the transceiver, wherein the processor is programmed to:

store information associated with a predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices;

establish a symmetric traffic key using an APK key establishment process between a first multi-mode portable communication device and the predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices during an idle mode of the first multi-mode portable communication device;

establish a secure communication session in a first mode of communication in a first communication network that supports a first communication protocol between the first multi-mode portable communication and at least one among the predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices without further requiring the APK key establishment process;

switch to at least a second mode of communication in a second communication network that supports a second communication protocol; and

following the switch, share the symmetric traffic key between the first multi-mode portable communication device and the at least one among the predetermined number of other multi-mode portable communication devices in the second mode of communication;

wherein the first multi-mode device and the other multi-mode device communicate with one another using the first communication protocol over the first

communication network and using the second communication protocol over the second communication network.